

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 3-8, 17, 31, 33, and 37-38 and 40 are currently pending and under examination.

Claim 3 is amended herein.

Claims 6, 31, 33, and 37-38 are cancelled herein without prejudice.

All claims find support in the specification as originally filed.

Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce cancelled subject matter, for example, in later-filed continuing application(s).

No new matter is introduced by the present amendment.

Disposition of Allowable Claims

Office Allowance of Claims 3-5, 7, 8, and 40

Applicants thank the Examiner for her allowance of claims 3-5, 7, 8, and 40. Office Action Summary, Disposition of claims at no. 5.

Disposition of Claim 17

It appears that the Office inadvertently did not explicitly state the disposition of claim 17.

In view of the Examiner's prior conclusion that "claim 17 [is] free of the prior art and would be allowable" if certain issues surrounding claim 3 were obviated, it is Applicants' understanding that the Office also intended to allow claim 17 in the present Action. See Office Action dated October 24, 2008 at page 11, lines 4-6. If Applicants' understanding is incorrect, clarification would be appreciated.

Office Objection to Claim 3 is obviated

As requested by the Office, Applicants have amended claim 3 to insert a space between "residues" and "162." Office Action at page 2, item 1. Therefore, this objection is now obviated.

Office Request for Sequence Compliance is Moot in view of the January 11, 2005 Preliminary Amendment

The Office has requested sequence compliance stating that the “specification [page 8, last line of paragraph 2] should be amended to include the appropriate sequence identifier.” Office Action at page 2, item 2.

Applicants point out that by the January 11, 2005 Preliminary Amendment, Applicants complied with the sequence requirements including amending the specification as required by the present Action. Therefore, this objection is moot.

Rejection of Claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph is Rendered Moot

The Office rejected claim 31 as allegedly indefinite. Office Action at page 3, item 4.

Claim 31 has been cancelled, therefore, this rejection is moot.

Rejection of Claims 6, 31, 33, 37, and 38 under 35 U.S.C. §112, 1st paragraph is Rendered Moot

Written Description

The Office rejected claims 6, 31, 33, 37, and 38 as allegedly lacking written description. Office Action at page 3, item 5 through page 6.

Applicants disagree with the Office assertion regarding alleged lack of written description. Nonetheless, to obtain early issuance of the allowed claims, claims 6, 31, 33, 37, and 38 have been cancelled. Therefore, this rejection is moot.

Enablement

The Office rejected claims 6, 31, 33, 37, and 38 as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Office Action at page 7, item 7 through page 8, line 5.

Applicants disagree with the Office assertion regarding alleged failure to comply with the enablement requirement. Nonetheless, to obtain early issuance of the allowed claims, claims 6, 31, 33, 37, and 38 have been cancelled. Therefore, this rejection is moot.

CONCLUSION

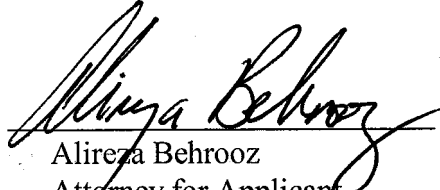
All alleged bases for rejection of Applicants' pending claims have been properly traversed or rendered moot. Accordingly, the present application is in condition for immediate allowance, and early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative using the information provided below if he has any questions or comments regarding this Reply. If any further action other than allowance of all claims is contemplated, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned representative to arrange for a formal interview.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 3, 2009

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